

POWER FOOTBALL SINKS WYCOMBE

By ARGUS

Bromley 4, Wycombe Wanderers 0

BROMLEY—new exponents of the quickfire, chase-me-Charlie, powerhouse game which is the vogue in senior amateur football at the moment — effectively squashed Wycombe Wanderers at Hayes-lane on Saturday.

A mere goal down at the interval, when they might have been ahead, the Wanderers played like a team with the weight of the universe on their shoulders during the second half and were lucky to escape more than a four-goals hiding.

After a promising, perplexing, chance-squandering first half—in which 16-years-old Steve Hyde, making his first appearance for the seniors, played like an accomplished veteran — Wycombe caught a whale-size inferiority complex and quietly played second fiddle.

By current Isthmian methods, Wycombe are a quaint, old-fashioned side. They refuse to boot and bash and decline to charge about like an army of Herb Elliotts. Thought takes priority over sheer speed and the ball is moved about in complex patterns.

Inept finishing was Wycombe's saddest weakness. Without the international-tied Paul Bates and the injured Cliff Trott, the Wycombe attack was woefully short of marksmen.

Making a nostalgic return to the centre-forward position, skipper John Bartholomew lacked the speed and zip of his Hayes goals-feast days.

Try as he might Bartholomew could not recapture the old magic. Two chances he missed—when an edgy Bromley defence was ripe for a pounding—would surely have been accepted by an on-form Bates.

The Tomlin-Hyde wing was almost the most progressive of the two. The way young Steve trapped the ball, steered it down the wing and slipped it accurately into the centre, delighted Wycombe supporters. Before Tomlin felt the unaccustomed pace in the second half, he was the best of the Wycombe inside forwards. Rockell and Worley again disappointed and rarely

looked menacing.

Outstanding performer in a defence which sprung leaks alarmingly as the game progressed was again Dave Thomas.

A third minute Bromley penalty goal—awarded rather harshly after Studley had been upended and converted easily by pivot Alan Basham — set Wycombe back on their heels. But the first half was even with Bromley's forwards sending several scorching drives over the Wycombe crossbar and the Wanderers, sharing the midfield play, frittering away their chances.

The second half began with mighty Bromley flourish, Jones made a thrilling save from Studley and Nottage hit the bar before he leapt higher than Jones to glance a header into the net. As Bromley pressed relentlessly the points drifted from Wycombe's sight. Two more goals in two minutes by Nottage and Studley, from a desperate goalmouth scramble, turned the game into rout.

WHERE'S THAT WYCOMBE ZIP?

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BROMLEY, who have not dropped an Isthmian League point this season, were too good for a Wanderers' reshuffled side.

Wycombe made four changes just before the start and 18-year-old Steve Hyde was included at outside-left in his first senior game for the club.

Conceding a penalty in the fifth minute, from which centre-half Basham scored, Wycombe never really recovered.

Despite several switches, they lacked the polish and thrust they have shown in recent seasons. The few opportunities they had were countered by a calm defence in which right-half Dunmall and goalkeeper Price starred.

Bromley were held to a 1-0 lead at the interval. Then they broke out. Wycombe goalkeeper Jones was the most overworked man on the field. He saved from centre-forward Studley and inside-left Nottage at the start of the second half, and in the 55th minute Nottage headed home after a Nelson cross.

Nottage made it 3-0 10 minutes later with another header. The fourth came from Studley in the 77th minute.

More Wycombe changes were tried. But the nearest they came to scoring was when right-back Beck, switched to inside-left, beat Price and hit the bar.